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EDITORIAL COMMENT

JANE A. DELANO MEMORIAL SERVICES

The Red Cross appointed May 7 as the National Memorial Day for Jane A. Delano, to be observed at the Red Cross Division Headquarters throughout the country by appropriate services, and with some few exceptions this date was adhered to. Nurses in uniform and in civilian dress gathered by thousands to pay tribute to the nurse who, at the time of her death, was the most conspicuous woman of the war.

The western part of the Pennsylvania Division held its memorial service in Memorial Hall, Pittsburgh, on the evening of the seventh. Twelve hundred nurses filled the body of the hall, showing by their uniforms that they represented every branch of the nursing service from those of the Army and the Navy to the probationer in the training school. They came not only from Pittsburgh, but from fifteen other towns and cities in that section.

The president of the local Red Cross Chapter introduced Mrs. Anna M. Roth, the Chairman of the Red Cross Nursing Service Committee, as the presiding officer of the evening. Sophia F. Palmer, one of the speakers, gave an outline of her thirty years' somewhat intimate acquaintance with Miss Delano, in which she described something of the domestic and lovable side of Miss Delano's personality as well as her business and professional traits. At the close of the talk she read Edna L. Foley's affectionate portrayal of the tribute accorded Miss Delano in Savenay, which had been received in this country only the day before, and which is given in this issue. Miss Palmer also read Dr. McCracken's classic portraiture of Miss Delano's character, accomplishments and ability. This was followed by a very beautiful address by an overseas Army Chaplain, in which he showed the place woman has taken in the great events of the world since the beginning of Christianity. Coming down through the centuries, he referred to the different women of note and placed



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Miss Delano with those who have played a prominent part in the great calamity of to-day. The singing of a quartette added to the impressiveness of the meeting, which was very personal in tone.

On the same date, Washington observed this memorial day in the D. A. R. Hall. The speakers included the three Surgeons General, Mabel T. Boardman for the Red Cross and Clara D. Noyes for the American Nurses' Association. Music was furnished by the Marine Band and Mrs. Newton D. Baker. The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded the late Jane A. Delano by the Secretary of War, and as there were no relatives to receive it, Dr. Farrand accepted it for the Red Cross. It is regrettable that this signal honor could not have come to Miss Delano while she was still alive, but every member of her profession rejoices that such unusual and far-reaching service as she was privileged to perform, was given this recognition.

A smaller city, Grand Rapids, Michigan, observed the national memorial day, by services in the Park Congregational Church. Two hundred and fifty nurses in various uniforms marched down the two aisles and completely filled the center of the church. Major J. B. Whinnery, M. R. C., spoke on Miss Jane A. Delano and What She Was to the Nation, while Elizabeth Parker talked on What She Was to the Nurses. In Grand Rapids, as in every other center, it was not nurses alone but workers in every department of the Red Cross who joined in paying loving respect to her memory.

On the evening of May 8, at Carnegie Hall, New York, was held the memorial service for Miss Delano under the auspices of the Atlantic Division of the American Red Cross, at which our Assistant Editor was present.

The great, beautiful hall was made more beautiful by the flags draped on the balconies and by the presence of the hundreds, one might say thousands, of nurses in their various uniforms who filled, not only the body of the house, but the galleries, to the very roof. At one side of the stage there was hung a service flag showing the whole number of Red Cross nurses who have given their lives in service, while in the center was a red cross with a gold star upon it for Miss Delano.

Dr. George H. Vincent presided, and a band in khaki furnished music. To the strains of Chopin's funeral march, a long procession entered, led by a soldier and a sailor, bearing an American flag and a Red Cross flag which they placed in standards at the front of the platform. As the procession of nurses advanced, it parted just before reaching the flags, and each nurse saluted them as she passed, before taking her place in the tier of seats at the rear of the stage. The last one in the profession was Miss Florence M. Johnson, director of the

nursing service of the Atlantic Division, who bore in her arms a wreath which she placed at the foot of the service flag.

The addresses of the evening were by Miss Nutting, whose paper was read by Miss Noyes, with a personal tribute of her own; by Brigadier General Winter, and by Mrs. August Belmont.

Miss Nutting's paper showed how all Miss Delano's nursing work had led up to and prepared her for the broad service she rendered to the Red Cross and through it. General Winter spoke of her influence on military nursing, of the great improvement in the personnel and in the morale of the Army Nurse Corps when she became its superintendent, of the remarkable combination of good judgment, clear vision, and gracious personality which overcame obstacles in her path, of the respect in which she was held by all who had dealings with her. He showed how her spirit of preparedness and her wisdom in selection had resulted in most excellent service given by the nurses she sent abroad, who reflected her standards and her spirit. Mrs. August Belmont told how other Red Cross workers found Miss Delano always a ready and sympathetic comrade, quick to see and to coöperate; how as soon as the armistice was signed, plans were made by her for future work of wide importance.

An unexpected and beautiful addition to the evening's programme was the singing by Madame Homer of two songs,—“He Shall Feed His Flock” and the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

From the Interstate Secretary we hear that memorial services have been held in many cities and towns other than the Divisional Headquarters; the accounts given here are, doubtless, characteristic of all.

We cannot recall that any other woman in the history of our country, with the possible exception of Susan B. Anthony, has ever been accorded such universal homage as has been shown to the late Jane A. Delano.

In this issue we are publishing three of Miss Delano's latest photographs. We have no doubt that many of our readers will wish to remove one of them for framing.

THE LEAGUE MEETINGS

The meeting of the National League of Nursing Education, a full announcement of which is to be found under Nursing News, is to our mind, one of the most important conventions we have ever held in this country. It is the first great gathering of our members since the war, and plans for a reconstruction of, almost a rebuilding of, the nursing foundations would seem to us necessary to consider. We hope the

reports that we have heard that large numbers of League members do not intend to be present, may prove to be untrue.

The demands which the different departments of Public Health are making on the nurses of the country are so important to the health of the people, in a broader sense, and so alarming, as concerns the care of the individuals who will continue to be seriously ill in their homes, that they require most serious consideration from the whole teaching body and not from a few.

Plans for making our training schools for nurses more attractive to young women, in the way of shorter working hours and better and more attractive living conditions, must be thrashed out, that the whole country may go forward on uniform lines.

Before another legislative period, we should have formulated definite plans for the training of attendants, embodying certain principles which should be included in all the bills and not, as this year, have every state going forward on lines different from those of every other state. Unless we are going to lead the action of the country in such matters, it seems as if the usefulness of the League were over,—and again we want to say that such questions should be settled by the League as a whole and not by a few of its members.

LEFT-HANDEDNESS

In Notes from the Medical Press, Miss Scovil gives us the opinion of a French writer to the effect that children should be trained in the use of both hands so that they might not be helpless in the case of accident to one of them. This is quite contrary to the teaching of Dr. George M. Gould, who has made a special study of the subject and who feels strongly that children should be allowed to develop as nature indicates, either as right-handed or left-handed persons. He says that the difference dates from early infancy and that the brain, itself, is the source of the use of the hand, also that we are not only right-handed, but right-eyed, right-footed, etc. Dr. Gould is an oculist and has studied the subject in connection with the development of the eye and its uses. He believes that a person originally left-handed, but trained to be right-handed, is never as deft or skillful as he would have been if left alone. The hesitancy or clumsiness exists in varying degree in such persons and shows itself sometimes in slowness of brain action as well as in awkwardness. Six per cent of people are normally left-handed; the trait is not hereditary. School nurses and obstetrical nurses have an opportunity of teaching this theory to parents and of helping preserve to the child the best use of its hands. Those interested in knowing more of Dr. Gould's theories will like to read his book entitled, "Righthandedness and Lefthandedness."



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